

Selectmen's Meeting
26 October 1998
7:00pm

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting was called to order by the Chair, Allen Hines, at 7:00pm. Those present included George Lagassa & Jack Steiner (Selectmen), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

The Selectmen reviewed the regular meeting minutes of October 19th. Mr. Lagassa made the motion accept the minutes as written. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

1. Oaths of Office (Bandstand Committee) Signatures
2. SRF repayment / Equal Principle Schedule

Town Administrator's Report

The TA briefed the Board on the repayment terms for the SRF funds borrowed as part of the Coakely landfill. The DES wanted to know how the Town would like to repay the loan. Mr. Lagassa noted that equal principle payments would decrease the overall interest amount during the life of the repayment schedule. The TA explained that there was no early payment penalty. The Board directed the TA to have the DES amortize the loan with equal principle payments for a term of 20 years.

The TA reported that the DRA would be visiting the next day to establish the tax rate for the year. The Board agreed to attend.

The upcoming NHMA conference was discussed. The TA explained that he would be attending along with Janet Facella. Ms. Facella would be attending the sessions on welfare.

The TA briefed the Board on the status of the Town's leave policy noting that the Town had a 'use it or lose it' policy currently in place. It was explained that an employee had recently been on sick leave for approximately 55 days. The same employee also had almost 3 weeks of leave remaining. The impact on the overtime budget due to this unusual circumstance had prompted the TA to ask how other organizations handled this sort of situation. The TA passed out the various answers he had received from both private and public organizations. The Board agreed to review the answers and discuss at the next meeting.

Budget Review

The Board reviewed the Recreation budget. It was noted that there was a sizeable increase of approximately \$6,000 dollars, which in a small budget (98/99 \$36,985) represented a fairly sizeable percent increase. It was explained that the cost in the line item for beach parking also had a corresponding revenue source to offset the expenditure. Increases were mainly in maintenance, salaries and utilities. The Board next reviewed the Planning and Zoning portion of the budget. Notable increases included additional appropriations for part-time pay for the secretary, circuit rider and master plan development. The total increase represented approximately \$5,000. It was noted that the line item for the Rockingham Planning Commission dues was now listed under Regional Advertisement and Association along with NHMA dues. The Board reserved recommendation pending review of the library budget.

Selectmen's Issues

The TA provided a reminder about the upcoming Little River Watershed Project scheduled for November 7th from 9:00am until Noon at the North Hampton Elementary School. Everyone's participation was invited and encouraged.

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Mr. Steiner inquired about the efficacy of implementing a 1%-2% reduction in a tax bill for early payment. Brief discussion ensued over the issue. It was noted that other communities often employ such a policy in order to avoid the costs of borrowing associated with Tax Anticipation Notes. If the TAN's were at 5% and the early payment discount were 2%, the Town may well be better off. It was noted, however, that North Hampton currently has no need to borrow. The TA also explained that regardless the costs of the discount, or TAN, would ultimately be reflected in the tax rate because it represented an appropriation.

Mr. Steiner also asked about the use of inventory forms. The TA explained that they were seldom used in more than half a dozen or so communities in NH because of the costs associated with sending, collecting and fining those folks who failed to fill them out and return them. The TA added that intermittent use of the inventory that coincided with the decennial census survey was not a bad idea. It tended to either verify or highlight discrepancies of the census. It also was a good way to gauge overall population growth, which was important for planning capital improvement projects such as schools.

Questions & Comments

Kim Kisner asked whether the Town conducted any sort of census. Mr. Steiner explained that the planning board surveys for the master plan were somewhat helpful. The TA added that the building inspector routinely filled out reports for new construction that were sent to the US Census. That information eventually found its way to the NHOSP where it was disseminated to the regional planning commissions. Population growth projections were calculated using construction data. Ms. Kisner commented that the school's population was currently 508 students. The long range planning committee had developed its mission statement and was trying to formulate the school's long range facilities plan.

Mr. Lagassa asked Robert Strout about the status of the drainage on the Kutchell property. Mr. Strout replied that all was going smoothly.

There being no further questions to come before the Board the a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator